

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

PCT

To:


STOUT, UXA, BUYAN & MULLINS, LLP
Attn. Mullins, Kenton R.
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IRVINE, CALIFORNIA 92618
ETATS-UNIS D'AMERIQUE

JAN 13 2010

NOTIFICATION OF TRANSMITTAL OF
THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT AND
THE WRITTEN OPINION OF THE INTERNATIONAL
SEARCHING AUTHORITY, OR THE DECLARATION

(PCT Rule 44.1)

Applicant's or agent's file reference MB8039PCT	Date of mailing (day/month/year) 12/01/2010
International application No. PCT/IB2008/003797	International filing date (day/month/year) 27/08/2008
Applicant MAST BIOSURGERY AG	
<p><i>Article 19 Amendments Due 3/12/10</i> <i>IOS on US case Due 4/12/10</i> <i>CHII Demand/Response to WD Due 4/12/10</i> <i>* NOTE: NATL PHASE 30-month deadline is 2/27/10</i></p>	
<p>1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The applicant is hereby notified that the international search report and the written opinion of the International Searching Authority have been established and are transmitted herewith.</p> <p>Filing of amendments and statement under Article 19: The applicant is entitled, if he so wishes, to amend the claims of the International Application (see Rule 46):</p> <p>When? The time limit for filing such amendments is normally two months from the date of transmittal of the International Search Report.</p> <p>Where? Directly to the International Bureau of WIPO, 34 chemin des Colombettes 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland, Facsimile No.: (41-22) 338.82.70</p> <p>For more detailed instructions, see the notes on the accompanying sheet.</p> <p>2. <input type="checkbox"/> The applicant is hereby notified that no international search report will be established and that the declaration under Article 17(2)(a) to that effect and the written opinion of the International Searching Authority are transmitted herewith.</p> <p>3. <input type="checkbox"/> With regard to any protest against payment of (an) additional fee(s) under Rule 40.2, the applicant is notified that:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> the protest together with the decision thereon has been transmitted to the International Bureau together with the applicant's request to forward the texts of both the protest and the decision thereon to the designated Offices.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> no decision has been made yet on the protest; the applicant will be notified as soon as a decision is made.</p> <p>4. Reminders</p> <p>Shortly after the expiration of 18 months from the priority date, the international application will be published by the International Bureau. If the applicant wishes to avoid or postpone publication, a notice of withdrawal of the international application, or of the priority claim, must reach the International Bureau as provided in Rules 90bis.1 and 90bis.3, respectively, before the completion of the technical preparations for international publication.</p> <p>The applicant may submit comments on an informal basis on the written opinion of the International Searching Authority to the International Bureau. The International Bureau will send a copy of such comments to all designated Offices unless an international preliminary examination report has been or is to be established. These comments would also be made available to the public but not before the expiration of 30 months from the priority date.</p> <p>Within 19 months from the priority date, but only in respect of some designated Offices, a demand for international preliminary examination must be filed if the applicant wishes to postpone the entry into the national phase until 30 months from the priority date (in some Offices even later); otherwise, the applicant must, within 20 months from the priority date, perform the prescribed acts for entry into the national phase before those designated Offices.</p> <p>In respect of other designated Offices, the time limit of 30 months (or later) will apply even if no demand is filed within 19 months.</p> <p>See the Annex to Form PCT/IB/301 and, for details about the applicable time limits, Office by Office, see the <i>PCT Applicant's Guide</i>, National Chapters.</p>	

<p>Name and mailing address of the International Searching Authority</p> <p> European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL-2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016</p>	<p>Authorized officer</p> <p>Patrick Wach</p>
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NOTES TO FORM PCT/ISA/220

These Notes are intended to give the basic instructions concerning the filing of amendments under article 19. The Notes are based on the requirements of the Patent Cooperation Treaty, the Regulations and the Administrative Instructions under that Treaty. In case of discrepancy between these Notes and those requirements, the latter are applicable. For more detailed information, see also the *PCT Applicant's Guide*.

In these Notes, "Article", "Rule", and "Section" refer to the provisions of the PCT, the PCT Regulations and the PCT Administrative Instructions, respectively.

INSTRUCTIONS CONCERNING AMENDMENTS UNDER ARTICLE 19

The applicant has, after having received the international search report and the written opinion of the International Searching Authority, one opportunity to amend the claims of the international application. It should however be emphasized that, since all parts of the international application (claims, description and drawings) may be amended during the international preliminary examination procedure, there is usually no need to file amendments of the claims under Article 19 except where, e.g. the applicant wants the latter to be published for the purposes of provisional protection or has another reason for amending the claims before international publication. Furthermore, it should be emphasized that provisional protection is available in some States only (see *PCT Applicant's Guide*, Annex B).

The attention of the applicant is drawn to the fact that amendments to the claims under Article 19 are not allowed where the International Searching Authority has declared, under Article 17(2), that no international search report would be established (see *PCT Applicant's Guide*, International Phase, paragraph 296).

What parts of the international application may be amended?

Under Article 19, only the claims may be amended.

During the international phase, the claims may also be amended (or further amended) under Article 34 before the International Preliminary Examining Authority. The description and drawings may only be amended under Article 34 before the International Examining Authority.

Upon entry into the national phase, all parts of the international application may be amended under Article 28 or, where applicable, Article 41.

When?

Within 2 months from the date of transmittal of the international search report or 16 months from the priority date, whichever time limit expires later. It should be noted, however, that the amendments will be considered as having been received on time if they are received by the International Bureau after the expiration of the applicable time limit but before the completion of the technical preparations for international publication (Rule 46.1).

Where not to file the amendments?

The amendments may only be filed with the International Bureau and not with the receiving Office or the International Searching Authority (Rule 46.2).

Where a demand for international preliminary examination has been/is filed, see below.

How?

Either by cancelling one or more entire claims, by adding one or more new claims or by amending the text of one or more of the claims as filed.

A replacement sheet or sheets containing a complete set of claims in replacement of all the claims previously filed must be submitted.

Where a claim is cancelled, no renumbering of the other claims is required. In all cases where claims are renumbered, they must be renumbered consecutively in Arabic numerals (Section 205(a)).

The amendments must be made in the language in which the international application is to be published.

What documents must/may accompany the amendments?

Letter (Section 205(b)):

The amendments must be submitted with a letter.

The letter will not be published with the international application and the amended claims. It should not be confused with the "Statement under Article 19(1)" (see below, under "Statement under Article 19(1)").

The letter must be in English or French, at the choice of the applicant. However, if the language of the international application is English, the letter must be in English; if the language of the international application is French, the letter must be in French.

NOTES TO FORM PCT/ISA/220

These Notes are intended to give the basic instructions concerning the filing of amendments under article 19. The Notes are based on the requirements of the Patent Cooperation Treaty, the Regulations and the Administrative Instructions under that Treaty. In case of discrepancy between these Notes and those requirements, the latter are applicable. For more detailed information, see also the *PCT Applicant's Guide*.

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The attention of the applicant is drawn to the fact that amendments to the claims under Article 19 are not allowed where the International Searching Authority has declared, under Article 17(2), that no international search report would be established (see *PCT Applicant's Guide*, International Phase, paragraph 296).

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Upon entry into the national phase, all parts of the international application may be amended under Article 28 or, where applicable, Article 41.

When?

Within 2 months from the date of transmittal of the international search report or 16 months from the priority date, whichever time limit expires later. It should be noted, however, that the amendments will be considered as having been received on time if they are received by the International Bureau after the expiration of the applicable time limit but before the completion of the technical preparations for international publication (Rule 46.1).

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The amendments may only be filed with the International Bureau and not with the receiving Office or the International Searching Authority (Rule 46.2).

Where a demand for international preliminary examination has been/is filed, see below.

How?

Either by cancelling one or more entire claims, by adding one or more new claims or by amending the text of one or more of the claims as filed.

A replacement sheet or sheets containing a complete set of claims in replacement of all the claims previously filed must be submitted.

Where a claim is cancelled, no renumbering of the other claims is required. In all cases where claims are renumbered, they must be renumbered consecutively in Arabic numerals (Section 205(a)).

The amendments must be made in the language in which the international application is to be published.

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The letter will not be published with the international application and the amended claims. It should not be confused with the "Statement under Article 19(1)" (see below, under "Statement under Article 19(1)").

The letter must be in English or French, at the choice of the applicant. However, if the language of the international application is English, the letter must be in English; if the language of the international application is French, the letter must be in French.

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

Applicant's or agent's file reference MB8039PCT	FOR FURTHER ACTION see Form PCT/ISA/220 as well as, where applicable, item 5 below.	
International application No. PCT/IB2008/003797	International filing date (day/month/year) 27/08/2008	(Earliest) Priority Date (day/month/year) 27/08/2007
Applicant MAST BIOSURGERY AG		

This international search report has been prepared by this International Searching Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 18. A copy is being transmitted to the International Bureau.

This international search report consists of a total of 4 sheets.

☒ It is also accompanied by a copy of each prior art document cited in this report.

1. Basis of the report

a. With regard to the **language**, the international search was carried out on the basis of:

- ☒ the international application in the language in which it was filed
☐ a translation of the international application into _____, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (Rules 12.3(a) and 23.1(b))

b. ☐ This international search report has been established taking into account the **rectification of an obvious mistake** authorized by or notified to this Authority under Rule 91 (Rule 43.6bis(a)).

c. ☐ With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, see Box No. I.

2. ☐ **Certain claims were found unsearchable** (See Box No. II)

3. ☐ **Unity of invention is lacking** (see Box No. III)

4. With regard to the **title**,

- ☒ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant
☐ the text has been established by this Authority to read as follows:

5. With regard to the **abstract**,

- ☒ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant
☐ the text has been established, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authority as it appears in Box No. IV. The applicant may, within one month from the date of mailing of this international search report, submit comments to this Authority

6. With regard to the **drawings**,

a. the figure of the **drawings** to be published with the abstract is Figure No. 2F

- ☒ as suggested by the applicant
☐ as selected by this Authority, because the applicant failed to suggest a figure
☐ as selected by this Authority, because this figure better characterizes the invention

b. ☐ none of the figures is to be published with the abstract

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No

PCT/IB2008/003797

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

INV. A61L31/04 A61L31/06

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

A61L

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, EMBASE, BIOSIS

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X Y	US 6 136 333 A (COHN DANIEL [IL] ET AL) 24 October 2000 (2000-10-24) column 1, lines 9-15 column 2, lines 15-67 column 3, lines 1-19, 31-46, 60-67 column 4, lines 1-4, 16, 17, 31-34, 37-45, 51-53 column 5, lines 1-7, 17-22, 40-43, 54-67 column 7, lines 19-31 column 8, lines 30-49 column 9, lines 24-30 column 10, lines 7-15, 23-40 column 29, line 39 - column 30, line 10 example 1 claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 8, 10, 11, 14 ----- -/--	1-2, 4, 13-15 3, 5-12, 16-21

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.☒ See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

A document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

E earlier document but published on or after the international filing date

L document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

O document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

P document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

T later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

X document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

Y document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

& document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

17 December 2009

Date of mailing of the international search report

12/01/2010

Name and mailing address of the ISA/

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040,
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

López García, Mónica

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No

PCT/IB2008/003797

C(Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US 2003/185874 A1 (CALHOUN CHRISTOPHER J [US] ET AL) 2 October 2003 (2003-10-02) figures 6a, 8a, 9a, 10a, 11a, 12a, 15a, 17a paragraphs [0061], [0062], [0064], [0066], [0070], [0073] claims 1-12	3, 5-12, 16-21
A	US 2004/137033 A1 (CALHOUN CHRISTOPHER J [US] ET AL) 15 July 2004 (2004-07-15) the whole document	1-21

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No

PCT/IB2008/003797

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 6136333	A	24-10-2000	AT 330618 T 15-07-2006
		AU 735698 B2 12-07-2001	
		AU 3798497 A 09-02-1998	
		BR 9710243 A 11-01-2000	
		CA 2259603 A1 22-01-1998	
		DE 69736186 T2 03-05-2007	
		EP 0939639 A1 08-09-1999	
		ES 2262182 T3 16-11-2006	
		JP 2000514457 T 31-10-2000	
		KR 20000023724 A 25-04-2000	
		WO 9802171 A1 22-01-1998	
		US 5711958 A 27-01-1998	
US 2003185874	A1	02-10-2003	NONE
US 2004137033	A1	15-07-2004	NONE

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

To:

see form PCT/ISA/220

PCT

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY (PCT Rule 43bis.1)

Date of mailing
(day/month/year) see form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet)

Applicant's or agent's file reference
see form PCT/ISA/220

FOR FURTHER ACTION
See paragraph 2 below

International application No.
PCT/IB2008/003797

International filing date (day/month/year)
27.08.2008

Priority date (day/month/year)
27.08.2007

International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC
INV. A61L31/04 A61L31/06

Applicant
MAST BIOSURGERY AG

1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

- ☒ Box No. I Basis of the opinion
- ☐ Box No. II Priority
- ☐ Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- ☐ Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention
- ☒ Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- ☐ Box No. VI Certain documents cited
- ☐ Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application
- ☒ Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

2. **FURTHER ACTION**

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will usually be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA") except that this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of 3 months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.

Name and mailing address of the ISA:



European Patent Office
P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL-2280 HV Rijswijk - Pays Bas
Tel. +31 70 340 - 2040
Fax: +31 70 340 - 3016

Date of completion of
this opinion

see form
PCT/ISA/210

Authorized Officer

López García, Mónica
Telephone No. +31 70 340-2312



**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.
PCT/IB2008/003797

Box No. I Basis of the opinion

1. With regard to the **language**, this opinion has been established on the basis of:
 - ☒ the international application in the language in which it was filed
 - ☐ a translation of the international application into , which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (Rules 12.3(a) and 23.1 (b)).
2. ☐ This opinion has been established taking into account the **rectification of an obvious mistake** authorized by or notified to this Authority under Rule 91 (Rule 43bis.1(a))
3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:
 - a. type of material:
 - ☐ a sequence listing
 - ☐ table(s) related to the sequence listing
 - b. format of material:
 - ☐ on paper
 - ☐ in electronic form
 - c. time of filing/furnishing:
 - ☐ contained in the international application as filed.
 - ☐ filed together with the international application in electronic form.
 - ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search.
4. ☐ In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.
5. Additional comments:

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.
PCT/IB2008/003797

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	<u>3,5-12,16-21</u>
	No: Claims	<u>1,2,4,13-15</u>
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	
	No: Claims	<u>1-21</u>
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	<u>1-21</u>
	No: Claims	

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

The following observations on the clarity of the claims, description, and drawings or on the question whether the claims are fully supported by the description, are made:

see separate sheet

Re Item V

Reasoned statement with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Reference is made to the following documents:

D1: US6136333 A

D2: US2003/0185874 A1

2. Novelty (Article 33(2) PCT)

- The subject - matter of present claims 1, 2, 4 and 13-15 is considered as not novel over the cited prior art for the following reasons (Article 33(2) PCT):

- Document D1 (US6136333) discloses the use of biodegradable polymeric compositions in films or other structures to prevent post - operative adhesions, which comprise di-block AB or tri-block ABA copolymers. The A block preferably comprises poly(α - hydroxycarboxylic acid), for example, poly(glycolic acid), poly(L - lactic acid) and poly(D,L - lactic acid). The B block is preferably a hydroxyl, carboxylic acid or amine terminated poly(oxyalkylene) block (preferably a polyethylene glycol homopolymer or a poly(ethylene oxide) - co - poly(propylene oxide) block copolymer). Films having a thickness of approximately 10mil (0.25 mm) are described. The polymeric compositions may also be used to deliver bioactive agents. (Cf. D1, column 1, lines 9-15; column 2, lines 15-67; column 3, lines 1-19, 31-46, 60-67; column 4, lines 1-4, 16, 17, 31-34, 37-45, 51-53; column 5, lines 1-7, 17-22, 40-43, 54-67; column 7, lines 19-31; column 8, lines 30-49; column 9, lines 24-30; column 10, lines 7-15, 23-40; column 29, line 39 - column 30, line 10); example 1; claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 8, 10, 11, 14).

Therefore, the subject - matter of document D1 takes away the novelty of claims 1, 2, 4 and 13-15.

3. Inventive step (Article 33(3) PCT)

a - Since the subject - matter of claims 1, 2, 4 and 13-15 is known, it can obviously not be considered as inventive in the sense of Article 33(1),(3) PCT.

b - Although novel, the subject - matter of present claims 3, 5-12 and 16-21 can not be considered as inventive for the following reasons (Article 33(1),(3) PCT):

- Document D1 (US6136333), which is considered as the closest prior art, discloses the use of biodegradable polymeric compositions in films or other structures to prevent post - operative adhesions, which comprise a di-block AB or tri-block ABA copolymers. The A block preferably comprises poly(α - hydroxycarboxylic acid), for example, poly (glycolic acid), poly(L - lactic acid) and poly(D,L - lactic acid). The B block is preferably a hydroxyl, carboxylic acid or amine terminated poly(oxyalkylene) block (preferably a polyethylene glycol homopolymer or a poly(ethylene oxide) - co - poly(propylene oxide) block copolymer). Films having a thickness of approximately 0.25 mm are described. The polymeric compositions may also be used to deliver bioactive agents.

- The differences between the subject-matter of dependent claims 3, 5-12 and 16-21 and the teaching of the closest prior art D1 are: the presence of holes in the resorbable layer and the inclusion of a further membrane with a thickness of less than 2000 microns which is fluid/cell/vessel permeable. These features are described in document D2 US2003/0185874 (see figures 6a, 8a, 9a, 10a, 11a, 12a, 15a, 17a; §61, 62, 64, 66, 70, 73; claims 1-12) for a resorbable polymer barrier membrane as providing the same effects/advantages as in the present application. The skilled person would therefore regard it as a normal option to include these features in the scar-tissue reduction micro-membrane system described in document D1 and therefore the subject matter of claims 3, 5-12 and 16-21 can not be considered as inventive under Article 33(1),(3) PCT.

4. Industrial Application (Article 33(4) PCT)

- The subject - matter of claims 1-21 is considered to be industrially applicable; claims 1-21 therefore, satisfy the criterion set forth in Article 33(4) PCT.

Re Item VIII

Certain observations on the international application

- a - The embodiments of the invention described on pages 4, 11-16, 20-29 and in figures 1a-2e, 3c, 4 and 5, referring to a membrane with varying cross-sectional thickness, different molecular orientations of the copolymers, membranes containing welding flanges, and surgical prosthesis further comprising a tissue-ingrowth region do not fall within the scope of the claims. This inconsistency between the claims and the description leads to doubt concerning the matter for which protection is sought, thereby rendering the claims unclear, Article 6 PCT.

b - The term " **substantially**" used in claims 1 and 7 is vague and unclear and leaves the reader in doubt as to the meaning of the technical features to which it refers, thereby rendering the definition of the subject-matter of said claim unclear, Article 6 PCT.

c - The word " **about** " found in claims 1, 11 and 12 should not be used in connection with ranges of values as it leaves the reader in doubt as to the definition of the subject-matter for which protection is sought, contrary to Article 6 PCT.

Possible steps after receipt of the international search report (ISR) and written opinion of the International Searching Authority (WO-ISA)

General information	<p>For all international applications filed on or after 01/01/2004 the competent ISA will establish an ISR. It is accompanied by the WO-ISA. Unlike the former written opinion of the IPEA (Rule 66.2 PCT), the WO-ISA is not meant to be responded to, but to be taken into consideration for further procedural steps. This document explains about the possibilities.</p>
Amending claims under Art. 19 PCT	<p>Within 2 months after the date of mailing of the ISR and the WO-ISA the applicant may file amended claims under Art. 19 PCT directly with the International Bureau of WIPO. The PCT reform of 2004 did not change this procedure. For further information please see Rule 46 PCT as well as form PCT/ISA/220 and the corresponding Notes to form PCT/ISA/220.</p>
Filing a demand for international preliminary examination	<p>In principle, the WO-ISA will be considered as the written opinion of the IPEA. This should, in many cases, make it unnecessary to file a demand for international preliminary examination. If the applicant nevertheless wishes to file a demand this must be done before expiry of 3 months after the date of mailing of the ISR/ WO-ISA or 22 months after priority date, whichever expires later (Rule 54bis PCT). Amendments under Art. 34 PCT can be filed with the IPEA as before, normally at the same time as filing the demand (Rule 66.1 (b) PCT).</p> <p>If a demand for international preliminary examination is filed and no comments/amendments have been received the WO-ISA will be transformed by the IPEA into an IPRP (International Preliminary Report on Patentability) which would merely reflect the content of the WO-ISA. The demand can still be withdrawn (Art. 37 PCT).</p>
Filing informal comments	<p>After receipt of the ISR/WO-ISA the applicant may file informal comments on the WO-ISA directly with the International Bureau of WIPO. These will be communicated to the designated Offices together with the IPRP (International Preliminary Report on Patentability) at 30 months from the priority date. Please also refer to the next box.</p>
End of the international phase	<p>At the end of the international phase the International Bureau of WIPO will transform the WO-ISA or, if a demand was filed, the written opinion of the IPEA into the IPRP, which will then be transmitted together with possible informal comments to the designated Offices. The IPRP replaces the former IPER (international preliminary examination report).</p>
Relevant PCT Rules and more information	<p>Rule 43 PCT, Rule 43bis PCT, Rule 44 PCT, Rule 44bis PCT, PCT Newsletter 12/2003, OJ 11/2003, OJ 12/2003</p>